



Immigration policies of Kainuu 2012–2015

Kainuu region's immigration policies are being implemented as a part of the International Workforce Project administered by the Centre for Economic Development,

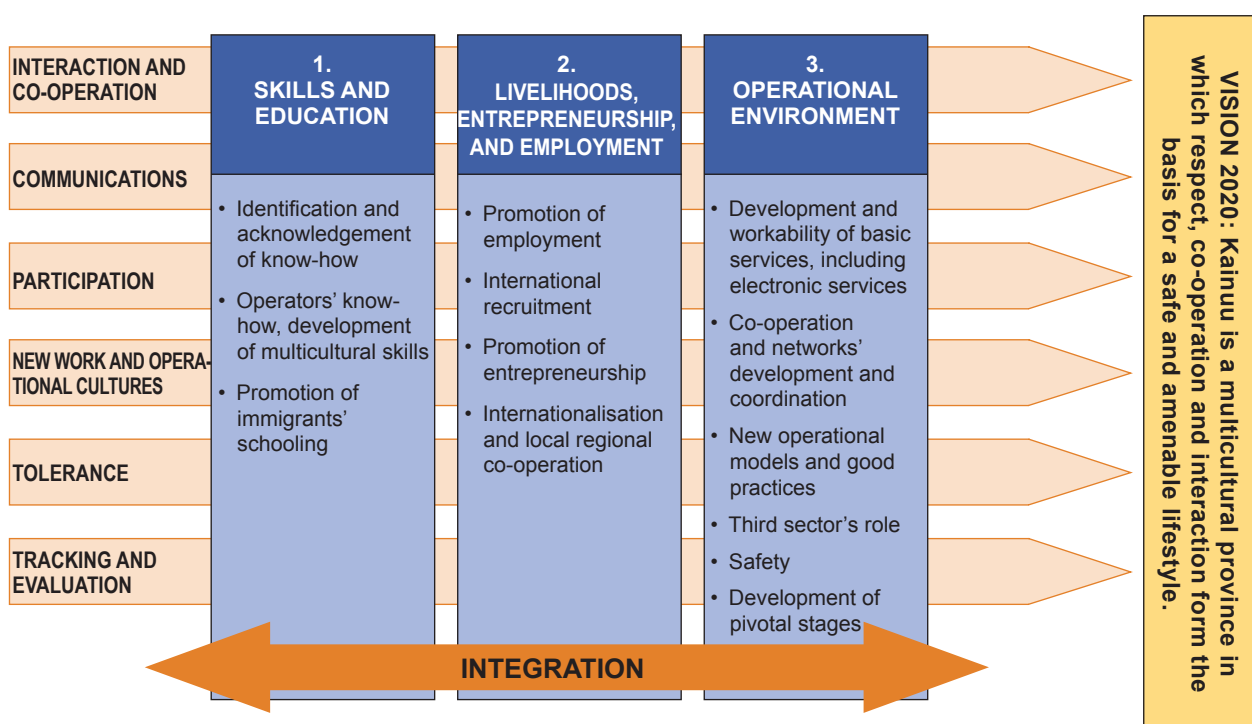
Transport and the Environment for Kainuu. The European Social Fund is financing the project.

VISION 2020: Kainuu is a multicultural province where respect, co-operation, and interaction form the basis for a safe and amenable lifestyle.

The starting point for immigration policies is a comprehensive view of immigration and the development of immigration. The common objective of immigration operators, as well as the main concept of the policies, is to view immigration as part of a positive demographic development in Kainuu. The objective of the working group preparing the policies has been to formulate immigration policies from local starting points that suit immigration in Kainuu. The

purpose of the policies is to form the basis for all immigration in Kainuu; they represent the views of Kainuu-based immigration operators related to the direction that immigration should take in Kainuu.

Integration has been elevated as the main goal of all activities. Integration is built from the activities of all three operational policies. The Kainuu region's immigration policies are an entity implemented by various operators.



1. Skills and education

Objectives and courses of action:

- **Identification and acknowledgement of know-how:** Take the identification and acknowledgement of know-how into account when drawing up integration plans for immigrants. Utilise the identification and acknowledgement of know-how actively as an aid with skills tests, competence training, and the degree equivalency evaluation process. Support learning in all age brackets.
- **Operators' know-how and development of multicultural skills:** Organise training for various operators and entrepreneurs. Promote active interaction among various operators, and maintain active co-operation between home and school. Provide immigrants with natural opportunities to participate in social activities and the development of Kainuu's society.
- **Promotion of immigrants' schooling:** Organise and provide practical language instruction for employed persons as well as those outside the workforce, as well as integration training as uncompelled studies during the assimilation phase. Proficiency in the Finnish language plays a key role in an immigrant's control of his or her own life. Organise working life-oriented integration training as well as training in labour policy. Utilise a company's opportunity to internationalise by hiring students; work to change attitudes and promote students' employment and integration in the region. Provide support for the planning of career paths by facilitating co-operation with educational institutions, training organisations, and the employment administration.

Main operators: *Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment for Kainuu, Employment and Economic Development Offices¹, the University of Oulu's Kainuu units, Kajaani University of Applied Sciences, AIKOPA, cities and municipalities, Monika² and the Joint Authority of Kainuu Region's³ training branch.*

2. Livelihoods, entrepreneurship, and employment

Objectives and courses of action:

- **Promotion of employment:** The objective is the employment of persons of working age. Support broad-based employment initiatives. Construct co-operation with different operators to establish target-oriented and effective schooling and employment paths. Promote enlightened attitudes among entrepreneurs and employers to promote the employment of immigrants living in Kainuu.
- **International recruitment:** Promote the recognition of EURES services and actively utilise the services in international recruitments. Organise international recruitment training for employers and experts. Participate actively in national workforce recruitment projects focused outside the EU area. Utilise the expertise of personnel service companies as a part of the international recruitment process. Extend integration services to also affect work-related immigrants.
- **Promotion of entrepreneurship:** The objective is to identify the immigrants who might be potential entrepreneurs. Increase entrepreneurship education and training, as well as training for entrepreneurship. Promote a greater awareness of the corporate growth and development services provided by Enterprise Finland.
- **Internationalisation and local regional co-operation:** Support companies' internationalisation. Utilise internationalisation opportunities through the employment of foreigners already residing in Finland. Develop entrepreneurship co-operation with Russia. Utilise and promote the mobility of students and the workforce.

Main operators: *Joint Authority of Kainuu Region, Enterprise Finland Kainuu, Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment for Kainuu, Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment for North Ostrobothnia, Employment and Economic Development Offices, cities and municipalities, Kainuun ETU Oy, Kainuu Entrepreneurs, and EURES services.*

¹ Kainuu's Employment and Economic Development Office beginning 1 January 2013.

² Kainuu's Monika Multicultural Workshop.

³ The activities of the Joint Authority of Kainuu Region are based on an experimental administrative act (Act 343/2003) prescribed for Kainuu during the period 2005–2012. Prior to the expiration of the experimental act, preparatory work has been activated; its purpose was to clarify the production of Kainuu's services from 2013 onwards after the conclusion of the administrative experiment. In early 2012, the preparations for Kainuu's 2013 service model were initialised without the administrative experiment. At a meeting of municipal managers held on 8 February 2012 regarding the implementation of services, the decision was made to establish two new regional authorities: a wide-ranging social and health services agency and the Kainuu Federation. The social and health services agency includes basic health care, special health care, social services (except children's day-care), special care, as well as environmental health care, including veterinary treatment. The objective will be the approval of a basic agreement in the municipalities' councils in June of 2012.



Director Leena Jurvelin assists Lauretta Nze with a Finnish language assignment. Annaliisa Nze might be a future orchestra conductor.

3. Operational environment

Objectives and courses of action:

- **Basic services:** The objective is to develop and enhance the workability of basic services and electronic services. The primary need is to make the scope of the services known and understood. This is facilitated by interpreter services as well as clearly-worded materials in the immigrants' own languages. When organising basic services, the possible traumatic experiences and crisis-related health problems of persons with refugee backgrounds must be taken into account. The services must also be made available to the handicapped and persons who are at risk of exclusion.
- **Co-operation and networks:** The primary need is the development and coordination of co-operation and networks. Agree on joint operations models and areas of responsibility, according to which work-based immigration in Kainuu will be implemented.
- **Third sector's role:** Utilise and actively support civic activities. When developing the operational environment and work-based immigration, identifying the third sector's expertise and opportunities is of central importance. Support the activities of ethnic associations and the immigrant community.
- **Safety:** The objective is to achieve a feeling of safety among the resident and immigrant populations. Provide facts, promote enlightened attitudes through education, and supply relevant in-

formation to the resident population and immigrants. Utilise social work when influencing the living surroundings and approve different types of homes.

- **Development of pivotal stages:** Pay particular attention to pivotal stages to ensure that the integration process progresses smoothly as it passes through the various functions. Maintain active channels of communication among the various operators to prevent alienation and reduce the risk of exclusion.

Main operators: Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment for Kainuu, Centre for Economic Development, Transport and the Environment for North Ostrobothnia, Employment and Economic Development Offices, police, rescue department, immigrant associations and other third sector operators, parishes and religious organisations, housing offices, landlords, KELA, municipalities, and Joint Authority of Kainuu Region.

The document Immigration Policies of Kainuu Region is available in its entirety in electronic form at the address: www.doria.fi/ely-keskus

INTERNATIONAL WORKFORCE PROJECT

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Leverage from
the EU
2007–2013



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